



MUCKROSS PARK PARENTS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Summer 2013

Dear Parents / Guardians

Once again the summer is upon us and we might find ourselves wondering where the year has gone! However, if we take a quick look back we can see that it has been both a busy and productive school year.

The highlights for the Parents' Association came with the fantastic response we got from you the members, both in joining and supporting the Association and in participating and attending our talks, our social evenings, our coffee mornings and above all our fundraising evening, the premiere of Pierce Brosnan's new movie "Love Is All You Need" at the Lighthouse Cinema in May. This event proved to be a fantastic night out and we really would like to thank one and all for your continued support in these very tough financial times.

The amount we raised was just under €7,000 and this money will go directly to the school to be used in several different on-going projects.

As you may know, we will be looking for six new members to join the ranks of the Parents' Association Committee for the years 2013 - 2015. This is a two-year voluntary post. I would urge anyone who thinks they would like to become involved to submit your name and apply to be part of a very active, positive and focused group. The application forms and information are included in the envelope.

This Newsletter gives a tiny overview of what has been going on in each of the different years from 1st Year to 6th year over the past term. Sometimes we forget all the things that are happening alongside a very full academic programme. We can just get a flavour of the many facets of life for our students in Muckross Park. A special thanks to Mr Gareth McArdle for the photographs.

We would like to wish you all a very enjoyable summer and we look forward to seeing you at our AGM which will be held on Thursday 26th September 2013.

Many thanks, Parents' Association



The Spirit of Muckross Award

This year for the first time the Past Pupil's Union of Muckross Park College have introduced an award called the 'Spirit of Muckross'. The award is given to a 6th year student who has shown a range of superb qualities from generosity of spirit to acting beyond the call of duty.

The recipient of the award for 2013 is Susan Gough. She was presented with her award and a generous cheque for €250 at the graduation ceremony.

Congratulations to Susan!

Retirement wishes

The entire Muckross community wish Mr Dan Maloney the very best of health and happiness in his retirement after 37 years with the school. He has been an extraordinary teacher creating a vibrant, dedicated Irish Department that fosters the love of the language.

His fellow staff members and the pupils who have been fortunate enough to have him as their teacher will miss him greatly.



Portuguese Minister for Education and Science Prof Nuno Crato who visited the school in May.

Sports Day was held on the 10th of May and with great luck it did not rain. Events included the long jump, football, tennis, and the annual 6th year's versus the teachers match ...

... the students won two nil!



1st year ...

... Inspiration came early for the first year girls with a trip to the RDS for the BT Young Scientists' Exhibition in January. On return they were encouraged to start thinking of projects for next year's exhibition – so watch this space!

There were two non-uniform days in the school – a real treat for the First Years who got to see some of their new friends in regular, non-regulation green clothes for the first time. The first was the St Patrick's Day Céili – great fun, and then the retreat. In March, each of the current First-Year girls wrote a letter to the incoming First-Years – to reassure them that the transition from primary to secondary isn't scary – and offering to help them in any way they can. It's lovely to see that they are settling in so well they feel able to give advice to the next wave of new girls!

The First Year girls are much sought after for quiz nights. They've been to Gonzaga and in April they were invited by St Michael's College for a First Years quiz in aid of the Hope Orphanage in Belarus. It was a fantastic night and the girls turned up in force.

First Years did many book reports and projects but the most exciting was the Archive Project, in which each girl described their experience of first year. They were seriously impressive - mini-books, colourful, even a pop-up one. Carly Blackburn from St Alberts was the winner and she was presented with a plaque in May.

2nd year ...

... The Second Year girls enjoyed a great mix of academic and social pursuits during the year. Summer and Christmas tests were augmented with weekly tests in some subjects in preparation for the Junior Cert next year! Events like the Irish, French and Spanish breakfasts combined learning with fun.

The whole year brushed up on their history when they went to the Irish National Heritage Park in Wexford and saw 9,000 years of Irish life and got the chance for a quick spot of up to date retail therapy as well!

Valentia went to the Dail thanks to local TD Lucinda Creighton as part of their CSPE Action project. The girls got a tour of Leinster House and saw both the Dail and Seanad in progress. Tory visited the Zoo in preparation for their action project. The trip to the Mosque in Clonskeagh, postponed in March due to torrential rain, took place late in April and really helped some of the girls focus on their Religion projects due in early May.

One opportunity for personal development, allowing time for reflection, was the Second Year Retreat facilitated by Accord. Others initiatives included Tory's charity collection raising much-needed funds for Bothar. On a social note, the girls got involved in choir, book, scrabble, orchestra and chess clubs.



The School Choir

The school choir is growing in stature every year and this March the Muckcross Chamber Choir, led by Ms Catriona Rosell, Musical Director, took part in the annual Inter Schools Music Festival in Wesley College.

This was the second year the school took part in the festival.

3rd year ...

... Since Christmas 3rd year students have been focusing on their studies for the Junior Cert. The Home Economics JC practicals took place in April. Feedback from the girls was very positive and everybody appeared to be happy with their projects. The hard work was certainly worthwhile. In preparation for Transition Year, the girls have been busy planning their schedules and applying for work experience. Students have been in contact with law firms, hotels, hospitals, gyms, radio stations, cookery schools, publishing firms, auctioneers and charities enquiring about vacancies for short-term work experience. Most organisations have been very helpful in assisting and accommodating our students.

The Junior A Hockey team which was mostly made up of players from 3rd year won the **Leinster Plate** in a pulsating match against Newbridge at Three Rock. The celebrations went on long after the final whistle was blown. The players were surrounded by their classmates and supporters. There was also great respect shown to the opposition. The annual retreat took place earlier in the year which was attended by the entire year.



The hotly contested MasterChef challenge saw the home economics classes competing to be the best cooks – Ms Lundy and Ms Mee were the chief tasters!



TY year ...

... Transition Year students had a very busy second half of the year. In February they had their Dublin Culture week where they visited many of the city's main cultural attractions, including the Glasnevin Cemetery and Collin's Barracks. The guest speakers continued after Christmas among them was Toni Reichental, a holocaust survivor.



Hairspray The Musical, was held in conjunction with Marian College in February and was a resounding success, with a full

house on each night. The Gaisce overnight hike took place near The Hellfire Club on May 10th and 11th and was enjoyed by all. The ECDL was completed by most of the girls and certificates received. The TY Graduation night on May 14th attended by parents and pupils was a great success and the Annual Year Book was unveiled on the night. Final week of work experience was completed on May 24th. The trip to York will be the culmination of a great Transition Year, with 108 of our girls going, so good luck to the teachers. Importantly we should acknowledge the huge effort in organising and managing this trip - good luck to all and we hope you have a great time.



Finally a special thanks to Mr McArdle and Mr Moloney for their care and kindness to all the girls during this transition year.

5th year...

... The New Year started with lots of rehearsals for the musical, Joseph and his Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, with Gonzaga College. It was a great success and much enjoyed by everyone. About 50 of the girls took part with Sally Crowe and Jasmin Huysmans sharing the lead narrator roles. A huge highlight of the year was the **Ski Trip to Italy** which took place during February mid-term and we are very grateful to Ms Mee, Ms Stephenson, Mr McCarthy, Ms Galloway, Ms Ni Bhroanáin, Ms Doyle and Mr Fitzsimons who gave up their time to organise and travel with us on what was a brilliant and very memorable trip. Molly Burke, Emily Costello, Jenny Kennedy, Aoife Mulvagh, Anna O'Duffy and Amy O'Farrell Tyler will be travelling to Lourdes with the Dublin Diocesan Pilgrimage in September. They are busy fundraising at the moment. Many thanks to Ms Hoban for all her help and advice and she will be travelling with them.

Congratulations to the 28 girls that were appointed prefect, especially Jenny Kennedy (Head Girl), Ailbhe Bergin (Deputy Head), Molly Sheridan (Sports Captain) and Ruth Shaw (Deputy Sports Captain). In between all that, we have been keeping on top of our study and can scarcely believe that we will be in 6th year next September. We are looking forward to it with equal measures of excitement and trepidation!



6th year ...

Sixth Year has been very busy for all the girls since the New Year, with Mocks in February, as well as language orals, practicals in music and art and write-ups for geography, history, home ec, and religion after Easter. Hard work along with career options have been a major part of Sixth Year. On Friday 17th May, the girls graduated from Muckross. The day started with a breakfast hosted by the Dominican Sisters in the Convent. In the afternoon the girls had a funday. Jumping castles, a photo-



Our Céili Dancers

booth and a tasty barbeque was enjoyed by all. That evening the girls were joined by their parents & teachers for their graduation ceremony and mass. Both Ms Lundy and Ms Mee hosted and Ms Lundy's speech was thought-provoking for the girls and their parents. Head girl Sadhbh had a humorous speech, noting memorable experiences of the girls during their 6 years in school. Ella Ryan read a poem, which included all the girls' names from the year. We were entertained with beautiful music, notably by Abbie McDonagh, violin; Stephanie Culliton, piano and singing from Edana Maher, Aoife O'Connor and Sarah Sheridan. All in all, a very talented bunch of girls! Mass in the chapel was very special, with Fr. Jim giving an inspirational homily and the teachers' choir singing a touching rendition of 'May the road rise to meet you'. A truly memorable send-off for the class of 2013.

Sports News

This has been the most successful hockey season for many years, the school has 17 active **hockey teams** of which 15 were registered for the league. Most of the hockey teams qualified from their groups with the Senior 1sts getting to the semi-final of the league and the quarter final of the cup. The junior A's were winners of the league Plate, and the Minor E's were runners up in their league to Manor House. It was also a busy year with other sports - Niamh Staunton and Johanna McCambridge came 11th and 13th in the recent **All Ireland Cross Country** schools athletics meet. Three **cricket teams** entered the League, eight **tennis teams** entered the Leinster Schoolgirls League, the Junior A's and the Minor C teams won their league. A very successful **Rugby tournament** took place at the end of the year. The Leinster Tennis championship finals took place at Lansdowne Tennis Club on Monday 20th May. Muckross were very well represented with 5 teams participating. Our 2 Junior teams won their categories and our Minor 3 team also won. Both our Senior teams were outclassed on the day but nonetheless it was a great achievement for them in progressing to the final. Ms Mee, Ms Fleming and Mr McCarthy were in attendance to give their support to the girls. In **basketball** the Cadette team finally had their time to shine. The team, made up of a dozen dedicated third years and one talented fourth year, were able to bring home the South-Dublin Cadettes A League trophy. They were coached by Ed and Ken, two formidable yet inspiring coaches throughout the whole gruelling season. It was a great year for the team and fun was had by all. Now we are all looking forward to our senior basketball season. Some pupils take part in sport at an international level and we wish best of luck to **champion international swimmer Ailbhe King** who is representing Ireland at the World Dwarf Games in Michigan in August.

And Finally ...

From September **The Canteen** will be selling vouchers to make it easier for parents and pupils to pay for meals. €4 for main course, €3 for sandwiches, including drinks.



Al fresco In a spirit of summery optimism, the Parents Association made a gift to the school of 8 new picnic benches so the girls could relax and eat outside.

Get more involved: The Parents Association and the Board of Management needs you. The Board of Management (BOM) needs two parent representatives.

There are eight members on the Board of Management and the two parents reps must agree to serve for three years – the key criteria is the reps must still have three years left in the school. The BOM changes every three years. We will also be looking for 6 new members for the Parents Association (PA) – Two for First Year, One for Fourth Year, Two for Third Year and one for Fifth Year. The PA constitution is on the school website and gives an idea of what's involved. Mainly it's your enthusiasm.



Dates for your diaries

School re-opens

26th August

for 1st Years

AGM

26th Sept, 2013

7.30pm

Sports Hall

All Welcome